

Re Item III

Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The search for the subject-matter of claims 20-23 and 25-28 has been carried out insofar as said claims are restricted to the specific embodiments defined in claim 24, i.e., peptides identified by SEQ ID Nos:7-9 (see below Item VIII-1). Consequently, examination of the subject-matter of claims 20-23 and 25-28 with regards to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability was carried out according to this restriction since claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no International Search Report has been established need not to be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT).
2. Claims 8-19 relate to subject-matter considered by this Authority to be covered by the provisions of Rule 67.1(iv) PCT. Consequently, no opinion will be formulated with respect to the industrial applicability of the subject-matter of these claims (Art. 34(4)(a)(I) PCT).

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1 - Reference is made to the following documents :

- D1: Grady R. et al. : "Axe-Txe, a broad-spectrum proteic toxin-antitoxin system specified by a multidrug-resistant, clinical isolate of *Enterococcus faecium*." Mol. Microbiol., vol. 47, no. 5, March 2003, pages 1419-1432
- D2: Cherny I. et al. : "The YefM antitoxin defines a family of natively unfolded proteins." J. Biol. Chem., vol. 279, no. 9, 27 February 2004, pages 8252-8261
- D3: Engelberg-Kulka H. et al. : "Bacterial programmed cell death systems as targets for antibiotics." Trends Microbiol., vol. 12, no. 2, February 2004, pages 66-71